

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

2615 S. GRAND AVE., SUITE 100  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007



United We Stand



Joseph N. Smith  
Director

## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, July 11, 2012

### Present:

### Absent:

#### Commissioners

Carvel Gay, Vice Chair  
Dave Culmer  
Stephanie Stone  
Ramon Rodriguez

#### Commissioners

Bob Archuleta, Chair  
Fred Flores  
Steve Rosmarin

### County Department

### Military and Veterans Affairs

Tatiana Rosas, Executive Secretary

### Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Carvel Gay called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., and welcomed everyone for coming to today's meeting. Vice Chair Gay expressed Chair Bob Archuleta's regrets for not being able to attend today's meeting due to a pressing matter in the City of Pico Rivera. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Dave Culmer and due to a lack of a quorum, only four Commissioners present; the approval of minutes was postponed.

### Roll Call

As noted above.

### Chairman's Report

Vice Chair Gay stated he hoped everyone had a good 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. There were several events he attended in Glendale in which various dignitaries were present. He was sorry to learn that Commissioner Steve Rosmarin suffered a stroke in the morning, "Our prayers are with him."

"Commissioner Fred Flores was detained and unable to attend as was our Chair with city business."

### Comments from Audience (three minutes each)

John Bartos, Assistant Adjutant, Los Angeles County Council (LACC), American Legion, stated he was here last month and just wanted to report that he has been contacted by Jan Takata, CEO's Office, to meet and hopefully resolve the LACC space issue.

Miguel Contreras, AVER-GLA (American Veterans for Equal Rights of Greater Los Angeles) is a non-profit program for lesbian, gay, and transgender veterans. Mr. Contreras extended an invitation to the Commission and those present to visit their site.

## **Veterans Advisory Commission Meeting**

**Minutes of July 11, 2012**

**Page 2**

Peter Bernard, Commander of Police Post 381, was the second tenant for many years at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. Mr. Bernard stated they have not yet been contacted by anyone and is asking the Commission for help in this regard. He stated that if he is not contacted then he would need to take legal action. He also said that everything he's heard has been here say. He knows there have been tours of the building in which the Police Post has not been invited. He would like to get straight forward answers either from Colonel Smith or the County's CEO Office.

Commissioner Stone stated that because of a lack of quorum they are unable to vote or pass any motions. She appreciated the fact that he's approached them in good faith and each Commissioner will contact their respective Supervisor to see what can be done for him and the Police Post.

Vice Chair stated he too would try to get some clarifications.

Jay Morales, retired Marine, Vietnam Veteran and Adjutant, American Legion, 17th District, Los Angeles Post No. 8, stated there was 87 days left until the scheduled completion date of the Building. There have been other organizations that have been given tours of the Building; he doesn't understand why the original tenants (occupants) haven't been invited on the tours. He referred to the fact that this is a veterans' memorial building and is covered by State law for historic purposes. Room 800 was designated by the founding members of the American Legion in 1925 for Post 8, the last charter tenant at a veteran memorial hall. He stated it is imperative that they move back to the exact location where they started because they are the last charter tenant.

The recommendation of going into the basement is unquestionable and not conclusive. He stated, "we're moving very quickly into a new direction; it's an election year and our next generation of veterans is going to inherit this from us. We need to keep the legacy open and moving."

### **Deputy Secretary for Women Veterans – Lindsey Wathen**

Lindsey Wathen, Deputy Secretary for Women Veterans, works for General Peter Gravett was appointed last November, 2011. She is here to introduce herself and raise awareness about women veterans. Ms. Wathen is a Navy veteran and her mission now is to provide leadership through out the State on women issues. "Women have gender specific causes even though a veteran is a veteran.....etc." She also stated that many women veterans aren't aware that they are eligible for benefits at the State or federal level.

She is working on her own projects:

- Partnering with US VETS on women stand downs.
- Hosting October 4<sup>th</sup> Women Leadership Conference in Sacramento
- Women Veterans Newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition will feature Commissioner Stephanie Stone as an interviewee.
- Working on expanding outreach:
  - > Getting resource book or reintegration letter out to veterans.
- Outreach to groups that have been underserved:
  - > Native-Americans women, LGBD, etc.

Deputy Secretary Wathen stated the State is revamping their website and making it more interactive to other veterans. She also mentioned Bea Cohen, the oldest living veteran, who through the first pitch at the game in Dodger Stadium.

Vice Chair Gay thanked her for her report and invited her to return to a future Commission meeting.

### **Veterans Home Support Committee – Steve Rosmarin**

Commissioner Steve Rosmarin was unable to attend meeting. Agenda item will be added to next month's meeting. Commissioner stated that the Support Committee is turning into a Foundation Committee and their first meeting would be this Thursday.

## **Veterans Advisory Commission Meeting**

**Minutes of July 11, 2012**

**Page 3**

### **Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report – Colonel Joseph Smith**

Vice Chair Gay suggested foregoing the reading of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Department Report in lieu of Colonel Joseph N. Smith, Director's absence and accept the report as written.

### **New Business**

No new business at present.

### **Item's for Next Month's Agenda**

- Bob Hope Patriotic Hall – any official from the County to clarify law and space agreements
- Election of Commission Officers
- Update on the Department Website
- Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Center – Ralph Tillman
- Chair Bob Archuleta will invite two Veterans for August's meeting to offer the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Stone; stated for the good of the order:

- Was at the LA Collaborative meeting this morning
- USS Iowa Battleship anchored at the Port of Los Angeles Berth 87 San Pedro, CA has had numerous visits.
- Mayor of Los Angeles is hosting a veteran event in November,
- Stand Down in San Diego
- Next Tuesday Goodwill hosting a women's veteran breakfast at 9am.
- Habitat for Humanities is putting a call out to any veteran that needs house repairs; also positions available.
- Congressman Hahn has a veteran community group
- Ricki Lake, daytime show host, is doing a female women veteran makeover.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated; that a Commission meeting should be held aboard the USS Iowa. Deputy Secretary Wathen said she would forward a contact person's name and phone number so that a request can be made for the Commission.

Vice Chair Gay stated that he is again running for Vice Chair but there could be no election today until next month as long as there is a quorum.

Commissioner Culmer stated he had nothing for the good of the order.

Vice Chair Carvel Gay adjourned meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Tatiana Rosas  
Executive Secretary  
July 11, 2012

Note: The next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Suite 100 at the Department of Public Social Services site at 2615 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA.